

Communication Matters

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Past issues of Communication Matters are posted on the **E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center**. Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net. *Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services.*



Writer's Handbook Helps Students Prepare for College

This online resource includes a Teacher's Guide and Student Tutorial program. Consider this resource for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who wish to improve their writing skills.

academic.gallaudet.edu/handbooks/writers.nsf

Certificate Program in Deafness Rehabilitation *Almost Free!*

Northern Illinois University
September 13- October 1
Application Deadline July 14, 2004

This unique program is designed to provide quality continuing education to rehabilitation professionals desiring to enhance skills in serving persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Stipends cover all tuition and fees. Trainees also receive up to \$500 for travel costs. Housing and meals are provided as well as all necessary training materials including workbooks, textbooks, and handouts.

A three-week intensive institute on the Northern Illinois University campus is followed by a distance learning segment which encourages application of the skills and knowledge learned during the intensive.

For more information contact:
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815/753-6514 (Voice)
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How to Own a Business For Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Sponsored by the Michigan Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

September 25, 2004

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Lansing Community College

\$30 Includes Lunch and handouts

Agenda includes:

- How to start a business
- Communication problems and solutions
- Marketing and advertising
- Regulations, taxes and insurance
- A Panel of Deaf and HOH Business Operators

For registration or information:
Steven Whetstone, Workshop Coordinator
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Phone 517-334-8000 TTY/Voice
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Cochlear Implants: A Transition Consideration

In the 1980's, the FDA approved Cochlear Implants in children. These young people are now graduating from high school and entering post-secondary education and employment. In 1999, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf had 29 students with Implants. In 2003, there were over 120 students with Cochlear Implants.

How are youth with implants different from pre-lingually deaf youth without implants? How will this impact the services required from MRS?

Successful Outcomes Decline for Individuals Who are Deaf

A review of the national cumulative case service report (RSA-911) conducted by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) found a decline in the number of successful outcomes for deaf individuals in 2002.

Cumulative data including both hard of hearing and deaf individuals is showing slight annual increases in successful outcomes. While this is partially good news, it does not tell the whole story. When both groups of individuals with hearing loss are considered independently, the numbers of hard of hearing people with successful outcomes show a slight but steady increase in successful outcomes. Those who are deaf have not fared as well.

For example in 2001, (excluding people who are deaf-blind) 7,641 deaf individuals obtained successful VR outcomes. In 2002, that number slipped to 6,946. For individuals who are hard of hearing the 2001 number was 14,815 and increased to 15,694 by 2002.

According to Annette Reichman, Chief of the Deafness and Communicative Disorders Branch of RSA, "It is critical that agencies continue to pay attention to the provision of VR services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and who are unserved or underserved by VR agencies."

In 2002, 10.4% of all successful VR outcomes nationally were people who were deaf or hard of hearing, 68.4% of those were hard of hearing.

If you would like additional information contact Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net

There are 8 million Hard of Hearing workers in the U.S. A national study found that only about 29% knew about Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Of those, only 8% visited VR, and only 5% received help with employment.

Source: Rehabilitation Research & Training Center for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



The Intertribal Deaf Council (IDC) is a non-profit national organization whose mission is to serve American Indians, Alaska Natives and First Nations (Canadian) Indians who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, hard of hearing or late deafened and their family members. They provide communication access to traditions, heritage and beliefs. The IDC conference will be in Toppenish, WA, July 21-24. For more information on the IDC conference and sponsorships, go to www.deafnative.com or contact intertribaldeaf@aol.com.

Wanted: Accommodation Solutions

We are looking for examples of employment accommodations used by workers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Please forward examples to Julie at jewel@chartermi.net

2004 DODHH Silent Retreat

July 16-18, 2004

\$150 for 2 nights, 4 meals & more!

Since 1987, the annual Silent Retreat has provided an opportunity for those with basic American Sign Language (ASL) skills to be immersed in Deaf culture. The retreat is held in Roscommon, Michigan and offers a variety of activities in a casual, relaxed setting.

Any one, 18 years or older, with the equivalent of one or two years of ASL college courses will find this a unique and fun way to improve ASL skills.

Contact the Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DODHH) for more information.

Phone: 877-499-6232

E-mail: dodhh@michigan.gov

www.mcdc-dodhh.org